



# **Massachusetts National Guard**

**Public Affairs**

**50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757**

## **Media Advisory**

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**Sep. 9, 2011**

### ***Massachusetts National Guard to Honor Retirement of Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Sellars***

**SALEM – Mass. -** The Massachusetts National Guard joins the City of Salem this Saturday, September 10, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. to honor the retirement of Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Sellars, commander of the Massachusetts Army National Guard on the Salem Common, Salem, Mass.

Sellars will be retiring on historic ground; America's National Guard heritage can be traced back to the First Muster in Salem more than 374 years ago. Today, National Guardsmen from Salem and throughout Massachusetts continue a tradition of service at home and abroad.

Sellars was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1977 through the Officer Candidate School at the Massachusetts State Military Academy. Prior to receiving his commission as an officer, Sellars served as an enlisted Soldier of the 1st Battalion 241st (Honest John Rocket) Field Artillery Regiment of the Massachusetts Army National Guard. As one of the few general officers who enlisted as a Soldier and promoted through the enlisted ranks to sergeant and then rose through the officer ranks from second lieutenant to brigadier general.

Sellars assumed the duties of commander, Massachusetts Army National Guard in March 2007. He is responsible for the training of all Army National Guard Soldiers and units in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as well as their preparedness to respond to civil operations and deployment to assume the duties of their wartime mission. Sellars also serves as the commander of Joint Force Headquarters, Massachusetts National Guard where he is responsible for more than 8,000 Soldiers and Airmen.



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Sellars has held an assortment of important command and staff positions within the Massachusetts National Guard to include: Commander, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 101st Field Artillery; Commander, Battery E (Target Acquisition), 211th Field Artillery; Commander, Detachment 4, Recruiting and Retention Command; Commander, 42nd Infantry Division (Mechanized) Artillery; Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations; Assistant Chief of Staff and Secretary to the General Staff, Massachusetts Army National Guard. Sellars' military service includes wartime duty in Iraq.

Sellars will continue to serve the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the military division as the assistant adjutant general/executive officer of the Massachusetts National Guard.

Sellars is also known for placing emphasis on taking care of Soldiers and Airmen. As the top enlisted Soldier in the Massachusetts National Guard, Command Sgt. Maj. David Costa worked closely with Sellars. "I believe that General Sellars' affect on Soldiers can be summed up in two words: "Selfless service," he said. "They are inspired by his compassion and caring for the Soldiers and their families while ensuring the mission always gets accomplished."

Sellars will be retiring on the weekend of the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks and after serving nearly four decades of military service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and our Nation. He comes from a family of three generations of Massachusetts National Guardsmen. He is a true Patriot and his presence and leadership will be greatly missed.

Sellars resides in Randolph, Mass. and has one son, Jason, a current member of the Massachusetts National Guard. Jason is deployed in Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

**Media are invited to attend this event, and must register at the e-mail above**

**WHAT:** Retirement of Brig. Gen. Thomas J. Sellars

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 10, 2011

**WHERE:** 1:00 p.m. - Salem Common, Salem, Mass.

**Public Affairs Office**

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